

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA SENATE 60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN CAROLYN SQUIRES**, on March 26, 2007 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 335 Capitol.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Carolyn Squires, Chairman (D)  
Sen. Joe Balyeat (R)  
Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella (D)  
Sen. Steven Gallus (D)  
Sen. Larry Jent (D)  
Sen. Rick Laible (R)  
Sen. Jesse Laslovich (D)  
Sen. Dave Lewis (R)  
Sen. Jim Shockley (R)  
Sen. Joseph (Joe) Tropila (D)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Jeff Essmann (R)

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Dave Bohyer, Legislative Branch  
Lois O'Connor, Committee Secretary

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 729, 3/19/2007; HB 690,  
3/19/2007; HB 706, 3/19/2007; HB  
771, 3/19/2007  
Executive Action: HB 372, HB 679, HB 254, HB 690

00:08:03

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 372

00:09:27 Motion: SEN. LASLOVICH moved that HB 372 BE CONCURRED IN.

Discussion:

00:09:45 Sen. Joe Balyeat

00:11:11 Sen. Carolyn Squires

00:11:22 Vote: Motion carried 6-2 by voice vote with SEN. BALYEAT and SEN. GALLUS voting no. SEN. LEWIS, SEN. ESSMANN, and SEN. SHOCKLEY were excused. SEN. LEWIS will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 679

00:13:58 Motion: SEN. BALYEAT moved that HB 679 BE CONCURRED IN.

Discussion:

00:14:13 Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella

00:16:09 Substitute Motion/Vote: SEN. GALLUS made a substitute motion that HB 679 BE TABLED. Substitute motion carried 8-3 by roll call vote with SEN. BALYEAT voting no. SEN. ESSMANN and SEN. SHOCKLEY voted no by proxy. SEN. LEWIS voted aye by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 254

00:18:06 Motion: SEN. LAIBLE moved that HB 254 BE CONCURRED IN.

00:18:49 Motion: SEN. LAIBLE moved to amend HB 254 with amendment #HB025401.ABD.

EXHIBIT(sts64a01)

Discussion:

00:20:33 Dave Bohyer, Director of Research, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

00:21:16 Sen. Gallus to Sen. Laible

00:22:32 Sen. Gallus to Mr. Bohyer, LSD

00:24:27 Sen. Laible

00:25:25 Sen. Larry Jent

00:28:12 Sen. Gallus

00:28:19 **Vote: Motion that amendment #HB025401.ADB be approved passed on a 7-1 voice vote with SEN. JENT voting no.**

00:28:35 **Substitute Motion/Vote: SEN. GALLUS made a substitute motion that HB 254 BE TABLED. Substitute motion carried 6-5 by roll call vote with SEN. BALYEAT and SEN. LAIBLE voting no. SEN. ESSMANN, SEN. LEWIS, and SEN. SHOCKLEY voted no by proxy.**

**HEARING ON HB 729**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:30:01 **REP. HOLLY RASER (D), HD 98**, opened the hearing on **HB 729**, Amend county advertising requirements.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:31:23 Sheryl Wood, Associate Director, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

**EXHIBIT(sts64a02)**

00:34:36 Candace Payne, Lee Enterprises

00:37:22 Riley Johnson, Montana Newspaper Association

00:38:31 Matt Gibson, Missoula Independent

**EXHIBIT(sts64a03)**

**Opponents' Testimony:** None.

**Informational Testimony:** None.

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:42:54 Sen. Laible to Rep. Raser  
00:44:29 Sen. Laible to Mr. Bohyer, LSD  
00:45:26 Sen. Laible to Mr. Gibson, Missoula Independent  
00:47:14 Sen. Joe Tropila to Ms. Payne, Lee Enterprises  
00:48:22 Mr. Bohyer, LSD  
00:48:37 Ms. Payne, Lee Enterprises to Ms. Bohyer, LSD  
00:49:32 Sen. Tropila to Ms. Wood, MACo  
00:50:46 Sen. Tropila to Mr. Gibson, Missoula Independent

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:51:32 Rep. Raser

**HEARING ON HB 690**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:53:27 **REP. BOB BERGREN (D), HD 33**, opened the hearing on **HB 690**, Revise employer suspension laws for municipal firefighters.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:54:57 Doug Neil, Montana Firemen Association  
00:55:47 Randy Brodehl, Kalispell Fire Department  
00:56:31 Steve Larson, Fire Chief, Helena Fire Department  
00:57:26 Alec Hansen, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)  
00:58:38 Jack Tretheway, Montana Council of Professional Firefighters

**Opponents' Testimony:** None.

**Informational Testimony:** None.

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:59:13 Sen. Laible to Rep. Bergren  
01:01:15 Sen. Balyeat to Rep. Bergren  
01:03:20 Sen. Balyeat to Mr. Bohyer, LSD  
01:04:52 Mr. Hansen, MLCT  
01:05:50 Sen. Cocchiarella  
01:06:19 Sen. Squires  
01:06:51 Sen. Laible to Sen. Cocchiarella

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:08:33 Rep. Bergren

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 690**

01:10:49 **Motion:** SEN. GALLUS moved that HB 690 BE CONCURRED IN.

**Discussion:**

01:11:15 Sen. Laible  
01:11:24 SEN. GALLUS withdrew the BE CONCURRED IN motion. No further action was taken.

**HEARING ON HB 706**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:14:48 REP. MARY CAFERRO (D), HD 80, opened the hearing on HB 706, Add inflation factor to campaign contribution limits.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:15:26 Elizabeth Andrews, Montana Common Cause

**Opponents' Testimony:** None.

**Informational Testimony:** None.

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:19:15 Sen. Shockley to Ms. Andrews, Montana Common Cause,  
rereferred to Mr. Bohyer, LSD

01:20:57 Sen. Shockley to Mr. Bohyer, LSD

01:22:16 Sen. Balyeat to Rep. Caferro

01:25:00 Sen. Shockley to Rep. Caferro

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:26:22 Rep. Caferro

**HEARING ON HB 771**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:26:56 **REP. WILLIAM JONES (R), HD 9**, opened the hearing on **HB 771**, Revise actuarial valuations and reporting for retirement systems.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None.

**Opponents' Testimony:** None.

**Informational Testimony:**

01:32:12 Scott Miller, Montana Public Employee Retirement  
Administration (OPERA)

01:33:23 David Senn, Executive Director, Teachers Retirement  
System (TRS)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:33:50 Sen. Jent to Mr. Senn, TRS

01:34:42 Sen. Balyeat to Mr. Miller, OPERA

01:38:09 Sen. Cocchiarella to Rep. Jones

01:43:00 Sen. Cocchiarella to Mr. Senn, TRS

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:44:08 Rep. Jones

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 4:55 P.M.

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SEN. CAROLYN SQUIRES, Chairman

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LOIS O'CONNOR, Secretary

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Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([sts64aad.pdf](#))**